

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2018
7:30 P.M.

The Franklin Township Committee held a regular meeting at **7:30 P.M., Thursday, May 24, 2018** at the Municipal Building. This meeting has been properly noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mayor Craig Repmann called the meeting to order and led the flag salute.

Roll Call: Joseph Darocha ABSENT Philip Koury (arrived 7:40) PRESENT Susan Soloway PRESENT

Diane Burgess PRESENT

Craig Repmann PRESENT

Also present: Katrina L. Campbell, Municipal Attorney
Heidi Wohlleb, Municipal Auditor

Some others present: Lt. Timothy Snyder, Cameron Keng, Heidi Wohlleb, Bill Happel, Scott Martin and some other residents on Locust Grove Road

Comments from the public on agenda items only: Scott Martin resident Locust Grove Road, expressed concerns about 18-wheelers pulling onto his property on a regular basis and parking on the road. He is seeking a "No Parking Zone" for this area and posting signage. Lt. Snyder stated he has visited the site on numerous occasions and the police have referred Mr. Martin to the Municipal Court several times. Lt. Snyder also referred to a township ordinance regarding commercial vehicle trucks over a certain weight not allowed to pull over on township roads. The Municipal Attorney suggested possibly stating no parking being allowed at certain times. Mr. Martin also asked if the speed limit could be lowered on Locust Grove Road. The Township Committee could consider a traffic study and the Municipal Engineer would be helpful in this instance. Deputy Mayor Burgess thought the Land Use Board did place restrictions on truck traffic and it was suggested that Land Use Board applications for Quaker Valley Farms/Garden State Growers be pulled and reviewed to see if there is any reference to traffic in any of their approvals/resolutions.

Mr. Happel addressed the Township Committee regarding his concern about overgrowth of noxious weeds (toxic hemlock) at the Quakertown Volunteer Emergency Medical Services (QVEMS) site. The Municipal Attorney will review the lease agreement between the township and the QVEMS.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of May 10, 2018 Work Session & Executive Session.

Moved Burgess

Second Soloway

All present in favor. Motion carried.

Public Hearings

BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 2018 – 10

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BY AND IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$270,945 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$258,042 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Motion to open the public hearing on Bond Ordinance 2018 – 10.

Moved Burgess Second Soloway All present in favor. Motion carried.

Comments from the public: None

Motion to close the public hearing on Bond Ordinance 2018 – 10.

Moved Burgess Second Soloway All present in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to **Adopt Bond Ordinance 2018 – 10.**

Moved Burgess Second Soloway

Comments/Discussion by the Committee: None

Roll Call Vote: Darocha ABSENT Koury AYE Soloway AYE Burgess AYE Repmann AYE

Motion carried.

REDUCTION IN OPEN SPACE TAX

Motion to open the public hearing on the reduction in open space tax.

Moved Burgess Second Soloway All present in favor. Motion carried.

Comments from the public: None

Motion to close the public hearing on the reduction in open space tax.

Moved Burgess Second Soloway All present in favor. Motion carried.

(See following Resolution 2018 – 34)

2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Motion to open the public hearing on the 2018 Municipal Budget.

Staff/Administrative Reports:

Lt. Timothy Snyder addressed the Committee and said he has been requested to look into a security system for the Municipal Building. He believes it would be a good practice and there would be a minimum cost. The Mayor suggested that Lt. Snyder work with the CFO on this. Also, the intercom hasn't been operating for over a year since it is not compatible with the upgrade done to the phone system. Deputy Mayor Burgess said this component should be considered when we do the new wiring in the building. It was also suggested we consider installing motion detector lights. Committee Member Koury suggested having a professional install a security system.

Committee Member Soloway expressed concern about a large number of 18-wheelers at the WalMart Plaza. Lt. Snyder stated there is nothing the township can do about this since it's private property. Many times the drivers are max'd out on the number of hours they can be on the road and pull into the WalMart lot.

Committee Member Soloway also asked the CFO to find funds in the budget for purchasing some plantings for the Municipal Building especially now that the 2 large pine trees have been removed from the front of the Municipal Building.

Cameron Keng, CFO, addressed the Committee on the new charitable trust signed into law by Governor Murphy. In theory it should generate money for the township but it's a very complicated issue. This may also become a federal issue since the IRS has stated they have jurisdiction in determining what is charitable and it is not up to the states.

BOARD OF HEALTH – No need for a meeting this evening.

Old Business

Motion to **Introduce on First Reading Ordinance 2018 – 11** An Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey Amending and Supplementing the Township Code, Chapter 268 "Residential Maintenance" to Add a New Section 268-2.1 Entitled "Registration of Vacant and Abandoned Properties". Public Hearing to be held at 7:30 P.M., Thursday, June 28, 2018.

Moved Burgess

Second Koury

All present in favor. Motion carried.

Cameron Keng, CFO, said some abandoned properties have been identified and he has started inspecting them and will work with the Zoning Officer on this matter once this ordinance is adopted. Committee Member Soloway questioned the CFO's role in inspecting these properties and Cam said since he is going to be working on these issues he'd like to become more familiar with them. Enforcing agent can be part of the township's policy since it not explicitly identified in the ordinance itself. Deputy Mayor Burgess asked if the Construction Official is involved and Cam said he would become involved if the situation appears to be dangerous. The Municipal Attorney suggested the township review the Township of Oxford's forms for abandoned properties since it contains a checklist. The goal of the ordinance is to get these properties cleaned up by the responsible parties.

Municipal Building Hours: The Committee did not express any issue with the hours.

New Business

Locust Grove parking issue has already been discussed.

Mayoral appointments: The letter of resignation from Chad Klasna is accepted with much regret. Mike Chabra is hereby appointed as a Class IV Land Use Board member to fill this vacancy, a 4 year unexpired term, terminating December 31, 2021. Other Mayoral appointments made now are as follows:

- Erica Amon will move to Class IV, Alternate #1, a 2 year term expiring December 31, 2018.
- Lou Moreira will move to Class IV, Alternate #2, a 2 year term expiring December 31, 2019

Committee Member Reports

Committee Member Sue Soloway will attend a meeting Tuesday morning in the Town of Clinton on the Rts. 78/22 coalition as part of the Hunterdon County Economic Development Strategy.

Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess would like use Planet Civic to reach out to residents regarding their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the hours of the Municipal Building. She also suggested future Newsletters have an article on a "who's who" of new staff members. She also reported on the recent Sustainable Jersey grant which will allow funding a study for restoring Rogers Pond. A meeting was held at Rogers Pond with an engineer from Princeton Hydro.

Committee Member Phil Koury indicated he will meet with the administrative staff each month to discuss various matters. He also received information from former Land Use Board Chairman Scott Bauman regarding escrow fees. He asked the Administrative staff to reach out to other municipalities in the County regarding their escrow fees so the spreadsheet can be updated.

Mayor Repmann referred to Alan Dilley's monthly report and commented on some of the items contained in the report. Recycling will be a topic on the June 14 agenda. Alan Dilley and the Municipal Attorney are working on a municipal tree ordinance.

James Witkowski, school board member, reported on issues at the school: water in the APR room (the theater). The architect has been called in to look at this issue and others that the school needs to address. A list of these items was discussed at a recent school board meeting and needs vs. a wish list needs to be determined. They're also looking at some of the reports done on ground water at the site. A brief overview was given on enrollment, 298 students at this time. Sixteen to eighteen in Pre-K. Committee Member Koury asked Mr. Witkowski if the school has been looking into reducing costs in light of declining enrollment. Mr. Witkowski responded that they are constantly looking into shared services. He also commented on the township's zoning and maybe a blend of smaller lot sizes. Mr. Witkowski was advised of a joint meeting with the Land Use Board to be held on July 12 to discuss the Master Plan and other items. The meeting is open to the public.

Payment of Bills

Motion to authorize payment of bills as presented.

Moved Burgess	Second Koury
Current Fund Expenditures 8 – 01	\$50,088.89
Land Use Board Escrow L005	\$ 434.34
Fair Housing	\$ 375.25
TOTAL	\$50,898.48

Roll Call Vote: Darocha ABSENT Koury AYE Soloway AYE Burgess AYE Repmann AYE

Motion carried.

Public Comment: No further comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter executive session for discussion of matters pertaining to contractual matters concerning Hamden Road and the Peach Exchange.

Moved Koury Second Soloway

Roll Call Vote: Darocha ABSENT Koury AYE Soloway AYE Burgess AYE Repmann AYE

Motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion to return to open session for adjournment.

Moved Burgess Second Soloway All present in favor. Motion carried.

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Twp. Comm. Reg. Mtg.
Thursday, May 24, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

Moved Repmann

Second Burgess

All present in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Ursula V. Stryker, RMC
Municipal Clerk

(The Municipal Clerk was not present at this meeting. Deputy Clerk Catherine Innella attended.
Minutes transcribed from recording and notes taken by the Deputy Clerk.)

DATE OF ADOPTION: 6-14-2018